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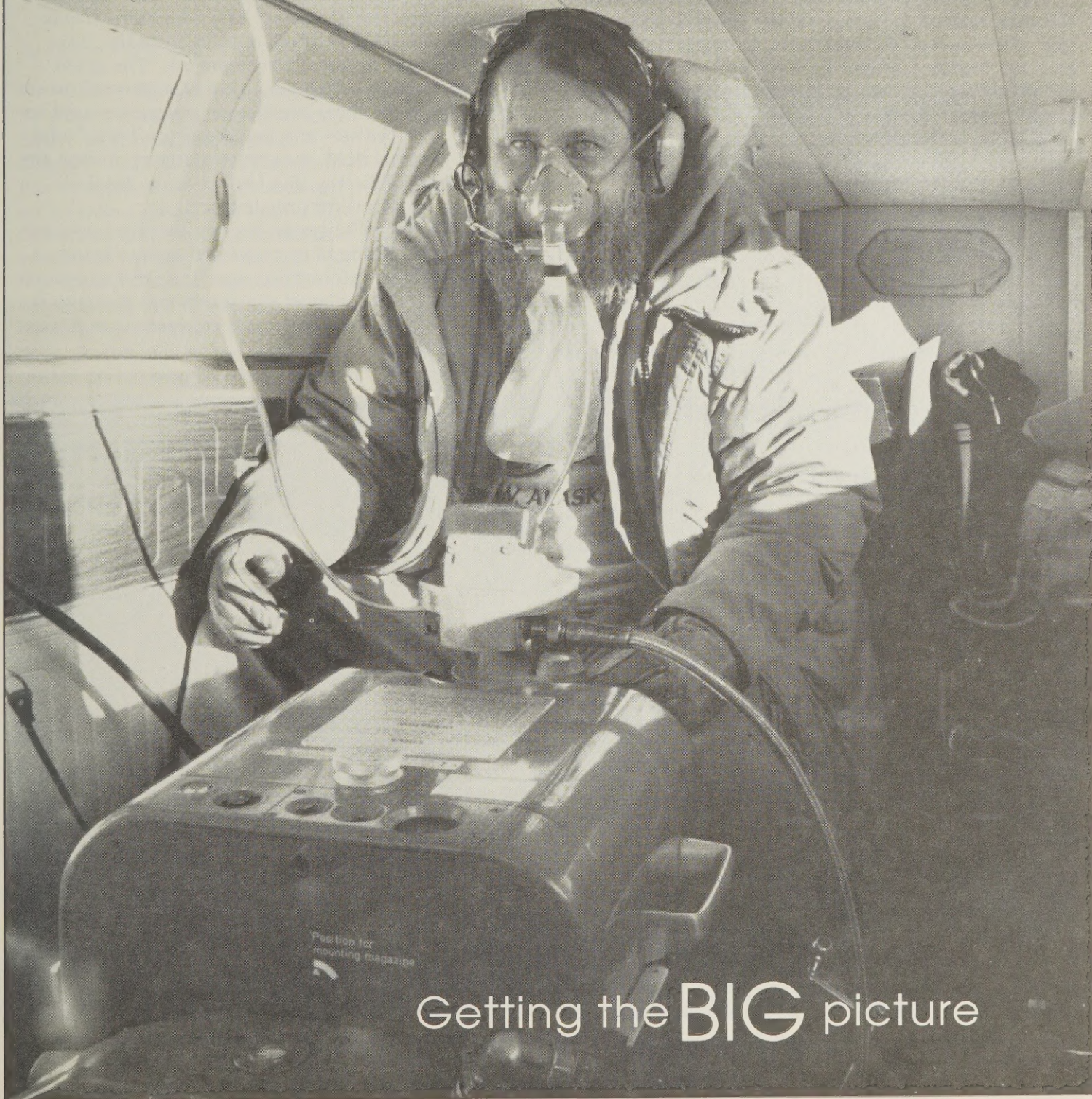
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ALASKA PEOPLE

Bureau of Land Management

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Getting the **BIG** picture

Russian professors tour Cadastral

by Jane Mangus

In February Cadastral hosted a group of Russian university administrators who spent several hours touring BLM's survey division. Many employees pitched in to give them a picture of what we do and how we do it.

Larry Evans, Branch Chief of Examination and Records, briefed the group on the general organization of the survey division. After geologist Greg Balen gave an overview of the functions and various projects the mapping section is working on, he led the group through the various offices. Cartographic technician Bruce Ocrassa and Tony Reynolds of mapping discussed BLM's methods and demonstrated equipment. Photolithographer Charles Luddington explained the machine that corrects aerial photos to fit map projections. Louie Doores, head of platting Unit II of cartography, explained how computer specialists in the section produce AutoCAD maps.

Visiting BLM's offices to learn American government mapping techniques were Ivan Lesnykh, the rector (president) of the Novosibirsk Institute of

Geodesy, Aerial Survey and Cartography in south-central Russia. He was accompanied by department heads Alexander N. Sosnov (optical technology), Alexander Guk (photogrammetry), and Valeri V. Jarnikov (geodetic).

John Oswald of LCMF, Ltd. (a local surveying firm) arranged the BLM visit. The educators' trip to Alaska was funded through a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development. "The grant provided funding to bring a group of high-level people to Alaska just to show them some companies and so they see both private- and public-sector work," said Oswald. Besides BLM, they were planning to visit the U.S. Geological Survey, the University of Alaska-Anchorage and several private firms.

In spite of the language barrier, the men nodded their understanding of everything that was being described. They watched attentively, asked questions (via interpreter) on almost every segment of the tour, and clustered around high-tech equipment as it was demonstrated.



Geologist Greg Balen of Mapping Sciences explains how water bodies on BLM survey plats are determined using aerial photography.

EYES N ALASKA

BLM cartographers help scientists monitor glaciers

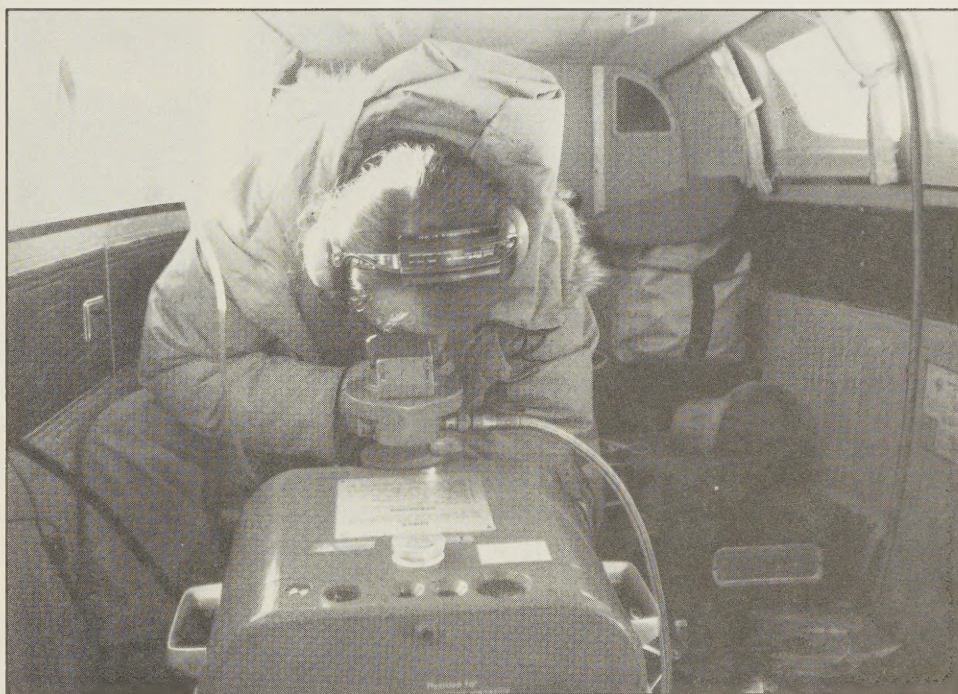
by Teresa McPherson

On a clear, sunny day in late February, cartographic technician Bruce Ockrassa of Mapping Sciences donned several layers of his warmest duds. He then boarded an OAS Cessna 402 bound for Columbia and Bering glaciers in southeast Alaska. On the floor of the Cessna, BLM's huge aerial camera was bolted down over an opening covered by a sliding trap door. At the pilot's cue, Ockrassa pulled on his oxygen mask, opened the trap door, and began photographing the massive gray and white glaciers lying silent but never still 25,000 feet below.

"We shoot aerial photos of the glaciers for the USGS several times a year," explains Ockrassa. "Glaciologists at USGS use the photos to measure volume, flow and location of the glaciers." This information then becomes part of a permanent database to monitor glacial movement and recession over time.

Most of us think of glaciers as somewhat stationary. But glaciologists describe Alaska's glaciers using words like recession, speed, outburst, retreat, calving and surging. This proves that glaciers are in fact anything but stationary. Because of this movement, the USGS and BLM partner up at regular intervals to document glacial movement at several sites around the state.

The February overflight followed pre-determined flight lines requested by USGS glaciologists. These same lines are flown



Bruce Ockrassa uses the aerial camera's sight to control where the center of each exposure should be. This ensures the 60 percent overlap needed for stereoscopic photography.

periodically at identical altitudes while cartographers shoot aerial photos. The photos help scientists study the movement of specific glaciers during various seasons of the year.

The BLM/USGS partnership yields valuable aerial photos of Alaska's glaciers for scientists at the Geological Survey's Ice and Climate Project, being conducted at the University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Wa. USGS hydrologist Bob Krimmel initiated the partnership as a cost-effective means of obtaining the aerials. "I'm always attempting to stretch

my research dollar," said Krimmel, who says the OAS plane-BLM camera combination is very cost-effective. The USGS reimburses OAS for flight charges and makes salary reimbursement to BLM for cartographer services.

Ockrassa likes the arrangement, too. "It gets me out of the office on some of the most beautiful days of the year in the most beautiful country in the world," he says. Ah, lucky Ockrassa. Wonder if he could use an assistant...

Teresa McPherson

Ranger helps free caribou caught in snare

by Andy Williams



Richard Fuelling

BLM ranger Randy Tracy holds down a caribou he and state wildlife protection officer Richard Fuelling found caught in a snare. They released the caribou unharmed.

BLM rangers never know what skills they'll need when they set off on their rounds. For Randy Tracy, a little bulldogging ability came in handy recently.

Tracy, a regional law enforcement officer with the northern districts in Fairbanks, was on a snow-machine patrol of the Bettles ice road five miles south of Koyukuk Jan. 25. He and Alaska fish and wildlife protection officer Richard Fuelling came upon a caribou caught in a snare just off the ice road.

"The snare appeared to have been set for a wolverine by a local trapper," Tracy said. "The caribou, a young cow, was caught by the left hind hoof."

Tracy said he turned to Fuelling and asked, "I don't suppose you know an easy way to go about this."

"No," Fuelling replied. "I guess we'll have to go straight at her."

Tracy bulldogged the caribou and wrestled it to the ground. While he held the animal, Fuelling released it from the snare. The caribou showed no signs of injuries and was released back to its wilderness home.

Tracy pointed out that wild animals can be dangerous and that bulldogging caribou is not recommended to the average recreationist. "Don't try this trick at home," he said.



BLMers help judge science fair

by Andy Williams

BLMers in Fairbanks turned out in force to help judge the Tanana Middle School Science Fair Feb. 17.

Nearly 700 exhibits created by seventh- and eighth-graders filled the gymnasium at the school. Fourteen BLM employees from the three northern districts helped judge the exhibits.

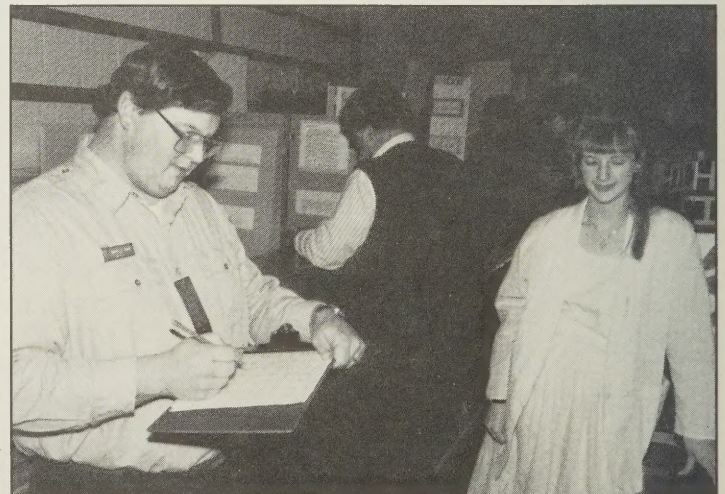
The purpose of the exhibits was to apply the scientific method to the process of solving a problem. Students designed experiments and inventions that featured scientific principles.

Jim Deininger, a geologist with the Kobuk District, coordinated BLM's participation in the science fair. This is the third year BLM employees have been involved in the science fair at Tanana Middle School.

The exhibits varied widely in imagination and design. Deininger said one of the most interesting experiments he saw compared the use of cellulose, Styrofoam and popcorn as packing material.

"The experiment found that popcorn had similar compressibility to Styrofoam and was biodegradable, but it was far more expensive," he said.

Of course, one advantage that popcorn had over the other materials was that you could eat it after the experiment, he noted.



Andy Williams

Tim Grinnell, staff assistant with the BLM's Kobuk District in Fairbanks, judges a student's exhibit at the Tanana Middle School Science Fair.

Hearty BLMers challenge Iditasport



Sharon Dean relays skiers' times via ham radio at a remote checkpoint on the Yentna River.

by Teresa McPherson

Alaska BLMers are a hearty sort. Why else would Townsite Trustee Martin Hansen trade his shirt and tie for insulated skiwear and brave Alaska's elements in February to compete in the 1994 Iditasport.

Since 1983 Hansen has competed in the annual 200-mile event that brings out Alaska's finest winter athletes. Participants ski, mountain bike, snowshoe or race on foot (the snowshoe and foot race course is 100 miles) over a grueling Arctic course. Hansen is partial to skis.

"I enjoy the race," says Hansen. "It keeps me in shape, really helps break up the winter."

Hansen was joined during the Iditasport by ASO contact representative Sharon Dean. She's a ham radio operator who volunteers for several outdoor events each year, including the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. Dean volunteered her skills and ham radio equipment to staff a checkpoint during the Iditasport. She was stationed at Riversong Lodge on the Yentna River, 16 miles from the halfway point at Skwentna.

There Dean used her ham radio equipment to transfer information about the location of the skiers, relay times in and out of the checkpoint, and pass on any emergency information.

"It's fun, it keeps my skills honed," says Dean. "And it's a great way to see Alaska."

Martin Hansen agrees. "We had spectacular Northern Lights this year. Beautiful enough for a calendar!"



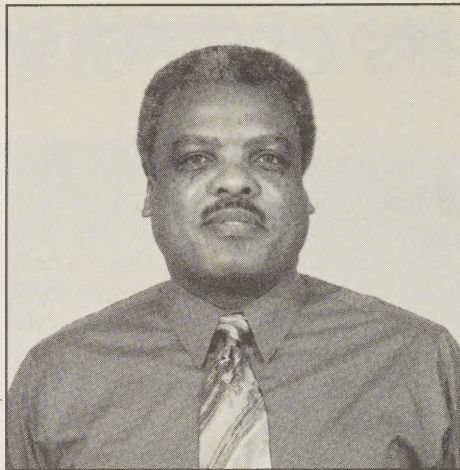
BLM Townsite Trustee Martin Hansen with packed gear as he leaves the Yentna River checkpoint.

Veteran EEO counselor in place

by Jack Grafton and Ella Wright

Leroy (Roy) Walker, former chief EEO counselor for Elmendorf Air Force Base, is the new BLM Alaska complaints manager. He manages statewide EEO programs, provides technical guidance and counsel to collateral duty counselors and guidance to the SD. He also develops resolutions for informal adjustments to employment programs for EEO Officer Glencora Lannen.

Three years ago, Walker donned his civvies and took the EEO position at Elmendorf. One month ago, he continued his second civilian career by joining



Ed Bow

EEO counselor Roy Walker

BLM's EEO staff.

His goal is to make BLM a good workplace for all employees. He said, "I intend to do my part as complaints managers to make BLM a meaningful workplace—a place managers and employees are proud to work each day."

Walker, a retired U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sergeant, says his 26 years in the military went by

quickly. He spent the first 11 years in the administrative career field. The last 15, he worked in the EEO/Human Relations/Substance Abuse area. He was responsible for the Air Force's military and civilian EEO programs in Alaska.

"My years of military service," he said, "afforded me many opportunities to obtain and demonstrate skills in management by performing in a variety of leadership positions." Leadership and management courses at the U.S. Air Force Senior Non-Commissioned Officers Academy and other courses helped him reach the highest rank attainable by an enlisted person.

Walker's active duty training, education, and problem-solving experiences for the past 18 years make him well-suited for BLM. He holds a bachelor's degree in social psychology, and he's only a few credits short of a master's in counseling psychology.

Kudos to...

ASO Public Services supervisor Lois Simenson and staff for helping the U.S. Department of Education verify land status of properties within Alaska's school districts.

The Impact Aid Law (P.L. 81-874) provides much needed funds for school districts on Indian lands throughout the country. In Alaska, this includes lands transferred under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. These funds help provide essential supplies and services in rural classrooms across the state. But to qualify, school districts must prove their districts include federal or Indian lands.

In FY '93, officials of the Impact Aid program began a nationwide examination of all properties claimed for assistance under the law. Simenson worked with school districts in Alaska and officials from the Department of Education in D.C. over the past year to verify land status of properties claimed under the law. Simenson and her staff spent many hours researching land records and providing certification or information to the districts.

Simenson's efforts prompted a glowing letter of commendation from Assistant Secretary Payzant of the U.S. Department of Education. Writing to Assistant Secretary Bob Armstrong at DOI, Payzant said: "She has gone out of her way to help the school



Teresa McPherson

Public Room supervisor Lois Simenson

districts and my staff. We would not have been able to complete our verification process without her assistance. She represents all the best qualities of a federal employee and public servant." Armstrong forwarded the letter to Simenson, along with his regards: "I, too, want to commend you for your service focus in providing critical assistance to our customers."

Total Quality Service is more than just a mission statement at the ASO Public Services Section!

Awards!

Quality Increase Award

Louis Doores, Supervisory Cartographic Technician, Cadastral Survey

Laura Lagstrom, Secretary, Cadastral Survey

Juana Fisher, Land Law Examiner, Operations

Sustained Superior Performance Award

Rosanna Benbow, Contract Specialist, Administration

Terese Bertini, Contract Specialist, Administration

Gary Goldberg, Purchasing Agent, Administration

Della Grahn, Purchasing Agent, Administration

Brenda Jones, Purchasing Agent, Administration

Charlene Montague, Motor Vehicle Operator, Administration

Sandra Smith, Supply Technician, Administration

Mike Rose, Aircraft Freight Loader Foreman, Administration

Kimberly Mincer, Photolithographer, Cadastral Survey

Dwayne Richardson, Lead Photolithographer, Cadastral Survey

John Spacer, Cartographic Technician, Cadastral Survey

Dot Tideman, Navigable Waters Specialist, Cadastral Survey

Bill Waldron, Cartographic Technician, Cadastral Survey

Ken Hext, Hazardous Materials Coordinator, Administration

Nancy Jones, Staff Assistant, Administration

Coco Lewis, Support Services Supervisor, Administration

Beverly Madding, Procurement Analyst, Administration

Ron Biggs, Supervisory Land Law Examiner, Operations

Suvina Holmes, Land Status Assistant, Operations

Bernadette Ohlemacher, Microfilm Equipment Operator, Operations

Mitch Overstreet, Supervisory Land Status Assistant, Operations

Beth Penwell, Land Status Assistant, Operations

Angie Nichols, Secretary, Cadastral Survey

Dorothy Bonds, Secretary, Cadastral Survey

Bob Moore, Safety & Occupational Health Manager, Operations

Jim Braham, Supervisory Computer Systems Programmer, Information Resources Management

Joe Essert, Computer Specialist, Information Resources Management

Greg Chavez, Bindery Machine Operator, Administration

Frank Foster, Management Assistant,

Administration

Betsy Vanek, Editorial Assistant, External Affairs

Special Act Award

Jerry Pinkerton, Supervisory Land Surveyor, Cadastral Survey

On-the-Spot Cash Award

Rodney Harvey, Management Assistant, Administration

Carol Sheldon, Supervisory Employee Relations Specialist, Administration

Sandra Wallace, Personnel Staffing Specialist, Administration

Anne Nagel, Miscellaneous Documents Examiner, Cadastral Survey

Time Off Award

Dwayne Richardson, Photo-lithographer, Cadastral Survey

Kay Schaeffer, Secretary, Administration

DSD TAKES THE PLUNGE—Wayne Boden of Conveyance Management (left) jumped into the icy 35-degree waters of Resurrection Bay in January to raise \$1,000 in pledges from his BLM cohorts. The annual Seward Polar Bear Plunge raises funds for the American Cancer Society. This year 70+ divers took the plunge that raised over \$30,000 and attracted some 2,000 enthusiastic spectators.

Asked what inspired him to participate, Boden said: "My investment is personal. Both my parents have had cancer and beat the disease. I feel the research performed by the American Cancer Society has helped them and others and is a worthwhile organization." Boden and his "partner-in-leap" Gary Rosynek are members of the University Kiwanis Club. —Pam Eldridge

Length of Service Awards

20-Year Service Award

Faith Curtis, Office Automation Clerk, Alaska Fire Service

Dede Domingos, Support Services Supervisor, Administration

Kamilah Rasheed, Management Analyst, Administration

30-Year Service Award

Andy Gifford, Criminal Investigator, Office of the State Director

Retirement

Nancy Jones, Secretary, Administration

Kenneth Brewster, Land Law Examiner, Conveyances

Coming Aboard

Roy Walker, EEO Specialist, Office of the State Director

Ashley Harris, Student Trainee (Land Surveying), Cadastral Survey



Hastey busted—NOT!

Keystone Cop Wayne Boden (a.k.a. DSD for Conveyance Management) arrests Acting SD Ed Hastey for failing to display this year's Fur Rendezvous pin during the annual Anchorage winter festival. Each year Boden's Kiwanis Club sells the commemorative pins to raise funds for charities throughout the community. Anyone not displaying a Fur Rondy pin during the ten-day festival is arrested by local Keystone Cops. In the past, Boden has arrested Alaska State Directors Curt McVee and Ed Spang.

The "criminals" must either buy a pin for \$7 or go to "jail." Upon arrest, Ed Hastey promised to mend his ways, purchased a pin, and narrowly escaped a criminal record!



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On the Cover:

BLM cartographer Bruce Ockrassa shoots aerial photographs of Columbia Glacier for use by the USGS. The photos were shot at an altitude of 25,000 feet, requiring the use of oxygen masks. The temperature outside the cabin was a chilly minus 40 degrees. See story page 3.

Photo by Teresa McPherson



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